

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method for transferring money from a sender to a receiver at a location different from the sender comprising:

selecting a sender agent from a plurality of independent sender agents listed in a database;

10 selecting a receiver agent from a plurality of independent receiver agents listed in the database;

authorizing the sender agent to transfer the money to the receiver agent, wherein the authorization is transmitted over a data network;

sending information pertaining to the transfer of the money over the data network;

15 transferring the money from the sender agent to the receiver agent through a financial network, wherein the receiver agent gives the money to the receiver upon receiving the money from the financial network and wherein the sender agent and the receiver agent are independent of the financial network.

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2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of using an intermediary to facilitate the transfer of money between the sender agent and the receiver agent.

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3. The method of Claim 1, wherein the intermediary hosts a web site which lists the plurality of independent sender agents and the plurality of independent receiver agents.

4. The method of Claim 1, wherein the intermediary tracks the transfer of the money.

5 5. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of the intermediary serving as a financial clearing house with respect to the plurality of independent sender agents and receiver agents.

10 6. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of the intermediary guaranteeing financial transactions between the sender, the selected sender agent, and the selected receiver agent.

15 7. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the step of bidding for services rendered by the plurality of sender agents and receiver agents.

8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising the steps of grouping a plurality of money transfers and sending the money in one financial transaction.

20 9. A money remittance system, comprising:
a plurality of sender agents, wherein each of the sender agents is an independent business entity;
a plurality receiver agents, wherein each of the receiver agents is an independent business entity;
a communications network coupling the plurality of sender agents with the plurality of receiver agents, wherein a sender gives money to one

of the sender agents, the money is transferred by one of the sender agents to one of the receiver agents via a financial transaction, and the money is given to a receiver designated by the sender and conveyed over the communications network which is different than a medium used to
5 effectuate the financial transaction.

10 10. The money remittance system of Claim 9 further comprising an intermediary having a web site which lists the plurality of sender agents and the plurality of receiver agents.

15 11. The money remittance system of Claim 9, wherein the intermediary serves as a financial clearing house with respect to the plurality of independent sender agents and receiver agents.

15 12. The money remittance system of Claim 9, wherein the intermediary guarantees financial transactions between senders, the sender agents, and the receiver agents.

20 13. The money remittance system of Claim 9, wherein the intermediary auctions services offered by the plurality of sender agents and receiver agents.

25 14. The money remittance system of Claim 9, wherein a plurality of money remittances from a plurality of senders are grouped together and transferred in one single financial transaction which is then disbursed to a plurality of receivers.

15. The money remittance system of Claim 9, wherein the
money is transferred across an international boundary.

16. The money remittance system of Claim 9, wherein the
5 financial transaction comprises an automatic teller machine transfer.

17. A method for transferring money from a sender to a receiver,
comprising:

10 selecting a particular sender agent from a plurality of independent
sender agents;

selecting a particular receiver agent from a plurality of independent
receiver agents;

authorizing a selected sender agent to transfer the money to a
receiver agent;

15 transferring the money from the selected sender agent to the
selected receiver agent through a financial transaction medium; and

sending information pertaining to the money transfer over a
network.

20 18. The method of Claim 17 further comprising the step of
disbursing the money at one of a bank automatic teller machine, a gas
station, or a convenience store.

25 19. The method of Claim 17 further comprising the step of
handling the financial transaction by a single banking institution having
multiple branches in different geographical locations corresponding to the
selected sender agent and selected receiver agent.

20. A method of facilitating a money transfer between a sender and a receiver located at a distance away from the sender by an intermediary, comprising:

5 listing information pertaining to a plurality of agents on a web site;

accepting a selection by the sender for one of the agents to become a sender agent;

accepting a selection by the sender for one of the agents to become a receiver agent;

10 transferring the money from the sender agent to the receiver agent by a first medium used to handle financial transactions;

aiding in transmission of information pertaining to the financial transaction by a second medium used to transmit data.

15 21. The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of tracking the money transfer.

22. The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of securing the transmission of information.

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23. The method of Claim 20 further comprising the step of providing a competitive bidding process for services offered by the plurality of agents.